DEPARTMENT OF NOTES, REVIEWS, ETC.

It is the purpose, in this department, to present from time to time brief original notes, both of methods of work and of results, by members of the Society. All members are invited to submit such items. In the absence of these there will be given a few brief abstracts of recent work of more general interest to students and teachers. There will be no attempt to make these abstracts exhaustive. They will illustrate progress without attempting to define it, and will thus give to the teacher current illustrations, and to the isolated student suggestions of suitable fields of investigation.—[Editor.]

A GIET TO THE SOCIETY

The Society is indebted to Mr. E. W. Roberts for a contribution of $125 to the funds of the Society to defray the expenses of printing the remarkable series of photographs accompanying his article. Mr. Roberts is a photographer as well as an independent student with the microscope, and the Secretary is glad to present his article, not in any sense as the last word on cytology, but as a good illustration of what may be done by the non-professional student, and as presenting an interesting and thoughtful interpretation of some of the facts of cell structure and behavior.

TRYPANOSOME INFECTION AND COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRIMATE SERUM

Mesnil and Leboeuf (Compt. Rend. Biol., Jan., 1912), in an effort to determine whether the active substances of different serums are identical or related, report somewhat conflicting results. In a first series of experiments, species of trypanosomes were taken which are peculiarly susceptible to baboon serums, and these were found susceptible also to serum of man and the mangabey. Similarly, species only slightly susceptible to one of these serums proved little so to the others; but the degrees of susceptibility were not constant.

This latter fact led to experiments in which strains of trypanosomes were developed, through cultures, to an optimum resistance, which in some instances was 200 times as high as at the outset. With such cultures it was found that the effectiveness of human and baboon and mangabey serums was distinctly different,—the effectiveness decreasing in the order mentioned. It is concluded that the active substances are therefore similar, but not identical, and that the similarity is in some degrees a measure of the closeness of the relationship between these mammals.